



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/028,060	12/21/2001	Kimberly Ann Newell	M233.101.101	2940

25281 7590 04/17/2006

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, P.L.L.C.
FIFTH STREET TOWERS
100 SOUTH FIFTH STREET, SUITE 2250
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

LUU, SY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2174

DATE MAILED: 04/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/028,060	Applicant(s) NEWELL ET AL.	
	Examiner Sy D. Luu	Art Unit 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 February 2006 and 28 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-83 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 49 and 51-83 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 10-17, 19-20, 22-34, 35-36, 38-42, and 43-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 and 50 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 April 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/6/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the RCE and Amendment Response filed 2/3/06 and 12/28/05 respectively.
2. Claims 1-83 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 49, 62, 75, 80 and 81 are independent claims. In the instant amendment, claims 1, 49, 62, 80 and 81 were amended. This action is made Non-Final.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 50 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. In this case, the limitation of “wherein one of the categories is pleadings information” is already inclusive in the independent claim 49, where the “categories and subcategories of litigation information include at least one of pleadings information...”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 1-6, 10-17, 19-20, 22-34, 35-36, 38-42, and 43-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grow (US 6,694,315 B1) in view of Bedell et al. (US 6,622,128 B1).

As per claim 1, Grow teaches a computer-based user interface for accessing litigation information associated with at least one litigation case, the user interface comprising: a website for managing litigation information, wherein the website provides querying and updating docket information (col. 2, lines 4-35). Grow does not explicitly disclose the details of the website to comprise of a home page including a first plurality of user-selectable hyperlinks, each hyperlink in the first plurality of hyperlinks identifying a category of litigation information, and a plurality of web pages, each web page associated with one of the hyperlinks in the first plurality of hyperlinks, each web page providing litigation information related to the category identified by the hyperlink associated with the web page, each web page displayed in response to selection of the hyperlink associated with the web page. However, besides all website accesses being inherently involved with a homepage upon entering, other detail setups and access organization of information for a website as claimed are also known in the art. For instance, Bedell teaches an internet based litigation management method, wherein a homepage is provided as well as the home page including a first plurality of user-selectable hyperlinks, each hyperlink in the first plurality of hyperlinks identifying a category of litigation information, and a plurality of web pages, each web page associated with one of the hyperlinks in the first plurality of hyperlinks, each web page providing litigation information related to the category identified by the hyperlink associated with the web page, each web page displayed in response to selection of the hyperlink associated with the web page (figs. 12 and 3; col. 19, lines 4-34). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include these features with Grow's teaching in order to provide a user with means for quickly navigating through web pages to arrive at the desired litigation information for browsing, and/or for updating.

Grow further teaches at least one web page associated with one of the plurality of hyperlinks in the first plurality of hyperlinks includes a hyperlink to an electronic copy of a document related to the category identified by the hyperlink associated with the at least one web page (col. 13, lines 28-47; *clicking a hypertext link*).

As per claims 2-6, 10-17, 19-20, 22-34, 36 and 43, Grow teaches/suggests categories to be various types of information such as contact information, docket information, correspondence information (col. 5, lines 4-14); discovery information, trial information (col. 12, lines 20); motion information (col. 6, line 21), rules (col. 9, lines 63-65), client (col. 17, line 21); search feature (col. 3, lines 14-15) and obtaining/downloading electronic copies (col. 1, line 60 – col. 2, line 12; col. 6, lines 56-58) . Grow does not expressly disclose patent, copy, and status information, as well as detail description of all the information, and the downloading of electronic copies being done via hyperlinks. However, these types of information and features are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine/include these information/features with the teaching of Grow in order to provide all pertinent information as required in a litigation management system.

As per claims 35, 38-42, 44-48, all claim limitations such as various configuration of client/server computers and data storage methods on a networks, presenting to users all main menu options/hyperlinks at all times, and launching application programs from a web page using hyperlinks are well known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine/include these features with the teaching of Grow in order to facilitate users' navigation of web pages, as well as to manage, share and distribute litigation information efficiently and effectively.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to various claims have been fully considered. The Applicant argues that: (a) Bedell does not teach a hyperlink to an electronic copy of a document related to the category of litigation information, and there is no suggestion to combine the method of Grow with Bedell's method as recited in claim 1; (b) neither Grow nor Bedell teaches the limitations as recited in claims 2-31 and 33-83; and (c) Grow fails to teach a search feature as recited by claim 32.

The Examiner agrees that neither Grow nor Bedell, singularly or in combination, teach the limitations as recited in claims 7-9, and 49, 51-74 and 75-83. However, the Examiner disagrees with the arguments pertaining to claims 2-6, 10-17, 19-20, 22-36 and 38-48 for the following reasons.

Per (a), as pointed out in the rejection section above, Grow does teach a hyperlink to an electronic copy of a document related to the category of litigation information (col. 13, lines 28-47; *clicking a hypertext link*).

Per (b), it is noted that while Applicant indicates that the applied prior art does not teach the limitations as recited in the respective claims, Applicant does not point out specifically how the applied prior art does not read into the claims. Thus, the Examiner believes that all claim limitations have been properly addressed as clearly noted in the rejection section.

Per (c), by disclosing that the host computer retrieves the requested website and retrieves information input at the user workstation (col. 3, lines 14-16), Grow indicates that a request is made by the user, from which a search must inherently occur in order to retrieve the proper information.

Art Unit: 2174

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 7-9, 49, 51-74 and 75-83 are allowable over the art of record because the art of record do not teach all of the claim limitations.

Inquires

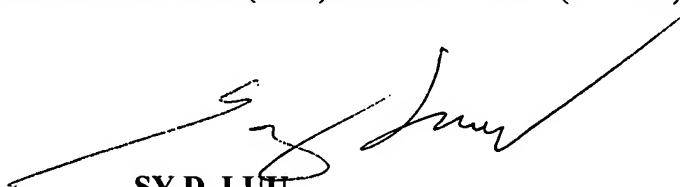
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sy Luu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4064. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**SY D. LUU
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2174**